



# Mishawaka Communicator



*Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life and inspiring pride in our community.*

Dave Wood, Mayor

[www.mishawaka.in.gov](http://www.mishawaka.in.gov)

June 2023

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



State of the City is the time when we annually pause, evaluate the previous year, measure the progress and the issues encountered. Every year, we strive to keep pace with all the positive happenings in our community and yet perform the routine activities of city government. So, what is the State of our City? Overall, it hasn't changed for decades, and I don't get tired of repeating it... Mishawaka continues to be fundamentally **STRONG, SAFE, FINANCIALLY STABLE, AND GROWING.**

We make every effort to be the most livable city in Northern Indiana, focused on growing Mishawaka in an orderly fashion and having every resident and neighborhood share in our prosperity and growth. I am pleased that for another year to report Mishawaka continues to build a community future generations can be proud of; one that is not only an attractive place in which to live, work, raise a family, and retire; but also, to visit, shop, seek healthcare, and do business.

**But what is the current state of our City?** The years of vision, progress, sacrifice and even some pains are paying off. We are on a positive trajectory; we are growing at a more rapid pace and there is a new energy and excitement throughout Mishawaka. We are becoming a bigger city, with big city options and amenities yet maintaining our hometown, small-town values, and a hard work ethic that our city was founded upon.



Every year, I choose a theme for State of the City. For this year, there could only be one: **"Feels Good to be Home"**. Of course, no project exemplifies our theme better than our move into our new civic home and is the essence of why we love and take pride in the Princess City. After a major renovation, the former Liberty Mutual Insurance building; has become the new home to Mishawaka's City Hall, Mishawaka Police Department, and Mishawaka Utilities Business Office. The move has taken Mishawaka's central hub for local government from the outskirts of downtown to smack dab in the middle of the action.

This has put many of our services into one building, centrally located, and is more convenient for our citizens to access services. What I love best is the immediate impact on our community. Our new home has helped improve morale, collaboration and interaction and it has helped us retain, attract and hire new talent.

Our public has embraced the facility and there is far more traffic in City Hall than ever before. It is a friendly, inviting place to do business or attend meetings. I love that my youth council uses the



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun 10 Date Night in the Park!  
(Central Park)
- Jun 10 Neon Glow Swim  
(Merrifield Pool)
- Jun 17 Mishawaka Retrofest  
(Ironworks Plaza)
- Jun 17 Cardboard Boat Regatta  
(Merrifield Pool)
- Jun 23 Inflatable Friday  
(Merrifield Pool)
- Jun 24 Neon Glow Swim  
(Merrifield Pool)
- Jul 1 Independence Day Celebration!  
(Central Park)
- Jul 20 3rd Thursdays in the Mish - American's Main Street
- Jul 22 Splish, Splash, Mish!  
(Merrifield Pool)

### INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

July 1, 2023 - 3:00pm  
Central Park

Live music, kids' games and activities, food, arts & crafts, local business vendors, and FIREWORKS at dusk! This is an event you won't want to miss!

### ONLINE ACCESS

- <https://mishawaka.in.gov>
- <https://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>
- <https://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>
- <https://mishawaka.in.gov/parksandrecreation>
- <https://twitter.com/MishawakaMayor>
- <https://instagram.com/MishawakaMayor/>

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Send your questions, comments, or concerns to [communicator\\_feedback@mishawaka.in.gov](mailto:communicator_feedback@mishawaka.in.gov)

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

public meeting space, for recreational activities, to socialize and do homework together. This is not your ordinary government building. It has truly become our home!

***It feels good to be home*** in our Mishawaka Community where we in City Government, including Mayor, Clerk and Common Council, work exceptionally well together toward the common goal of having a safe, resilient, and growing Mishawaka. Do we disagree from time to time? Yes. But even then, we do it with civility and an underlying sense of respect for each other. In these past 3-½ years, well over 90% of the votes taken were unanimous. Further, there has been only one party-line vote on a minor issue.

Every family has their secret recipe for success, and this is ours, ***City over Party, public service over politics***. That is what sets Mishawaka apart from most other cities and governments and is a significant reason for our growth and success!

It can only feel good to be home if our residents feel safe and secure in their homes and neighborhoods. In Mishawaka, our citizens' safety and security is of utmost importance. There is no service provided by local government more vital than public safety and here in Mishawaka it's job #1.

The Mishawaka Police Department's proactive, hometown, community-oriented approach to policing continues to keep Mishawaka a safe place to live. The constant patrols, painstaking detective work, active community involvement and focused training are fundamental strengths of the department. I continue to be thankful every day - and sleep well every night - because of the outstanding work performed by the Mishawaka Police Department.

**I am pleased to report that the crime rate has dropped yet again in 2022. There were 2,431 crimes reported in 2022, 169 less than 2021 meaning our crime rate dropped 6.5%! Even calls for service dropped nearly 6% last year bucking a national trend in the opposite direction and even as our town is growing. This is even more impressive understanding that Mishawaka serves as a shopping and business hub for our region which generates a significant portion of our calls for service.** One of the accomplishments that I am most proud of is the fact that crime has decreased in 11 of my 13 years serving as Mayor.

It's good to be home in a city that keeps its fiscal house in order. How a city manages its finances makes a significant difference between cities that are thriving and those that are struggling. To thrive as a city requires, we have appropriate funding, and tax revenue is managed wisely. In 2022, Mishawaka passed another balanced budget for 2023 that provides investment in public safety, streets, and parks, while including well deserved cost of living raises for our employees. As I have said repeatedly, budgets are about making choices and setting priorities. Mishawaka's success continues to be based on being fiscally conservative and not incurring long-term legacy costs that could jeopardize our stability in times of uncertainty. By looking ahead, we stay proactive in analyzing how best to keep Mishawaka financially sound.

Since I have been mayor, there have been many positive trends. There is, however, one piece of data that I believe is most important to cities is population. I believe that the single biggest indicator about whether a community is growing, succeeding, thriving, struggling, or dying. According to the US 2020 census, Mishawaka grew by over 6%.

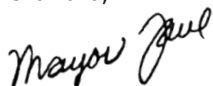
In today's world, people can choose to live anywhere they want and usually choose a place they want to live before selecting a job. It used to be that most cities were focused on jobs. Attract jobs and the people will follow. Now, it's attract people and the jobs will follow. Mishawaka has and will continue to focus on attracting people to the Princess City!

We continue to promote Mishawaka as a great place to live by investing in our quality-of-life amenities. This year, look for our continuing improvements to several parks including Rose, Battell, Crawford and the Mishawaka Riverwalk. Providing quality services, utilities and infrastructure is also key to attracting people and having neighborhoods that feel like home. I would encourage everyone interested to read the full report or watch it on our new website, [www.mishawaka.in.gov](http://www.mishawaka.in.gov).

I want to thank all of Mishawaka for providing me with the opportunity to serve. I am humbled by the trust that has been placed in me, the support, well wishes and prayers. For that, you have my heartfelt thanks. My service as Mayor continues to be the honor of my lifetime. I love Mishawaka and look at its citizens as part of my extended family.

Together, we will continue to work to make decisions today with an eye towards tomorrow. As Mayor, I am certainly proud to continue to call Mishawaka home! I believe that we should be very optimistic about our future. Mishawaka's best days are ahead!

Yours in Mishawaka,



### 2023 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES (June/July Schedule)

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Battell Park - 7:00-8:00pm</b>	<b>Weds</b>	<b>Biergarten 6:30-8:00pm</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Central Park 6-8pm</b>
<b>June 5</b>	Jazz Assemblage	<b>June 7</b>	The Erly	<b>June 8</b>	Zero
<b>June 12</b>	Flatwater	<b>June 14</b>	Deacon Blues	<b>June 15</b>	Van Dyke Revue
<b>June 19</b>	The Valleyaires	<b>June 21</b>	80/90 Duo	<b>June 22</b>	High 5
<b>June 26</b>	Elvis Tribute	<b>June 28</b>	Lakebed	<b>June 29</b>	Hideous Business Band
		<b>July 5</b>	The Whateverly Brothers	<b>July 6</b>	Alligator Blackbird
<b>July 10</b>	Playback	<b>July 12</b>	The Hillsiders	<b>July 13</b>	The Hipposonics
<b>July 17</b>	PT & The Cruisers			<b>July 20</b>	Lalo Cura
<b>July 24</b>	Gemini	<b>July 26</b>	Paul Erdman	<b>July 27</b>	The Saturday June Band

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